

S 3411 -- Redline

Introduced to Committee Substitute -- Establishes Social Media Research Center at four-year public institution of higher education.

Deletions ~~struck~~ · Insertions underlined

S3411 SCS SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE, No.

3411 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE ~~INTRODUCED~~ADOPTED FEBRUARY~~JUNE 9, 28,~~ 2026 Sponsored by:
Senators ~~Beach~~Beach, Moriarty and ~~Moriarty~~Turner SYNOPSIS Establishes Social Media Research Center at four-year public institution of higher education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT As Substitute introduced, as adopted by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

An Act establishing a Social Media Research Center and supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

~~1. The a. Legislature~~There finds is and established declares a that: Social Media Research Center,
hereinafter referred to as the center, at a four-year public institution of higher education, subject to
appropriation.

~~The a. purpose The of United the States center Surgeon shall General be released to ancary advisory out~~
~~on collaborative social and media interdisciplinary research to create and youth support mental the health use~~
~~of impartial and actionable science to advance efforts in May understanding 2023, social which media~~
~~finds use, that: mitigating the negative impacts of social media, and promoting healthy and responsible~~
~~social media use.~~

~~(1) b. social The media Secretary use of by Higher young Education, people in is coordination nearly with~~
~~universal, the with Office up of to Youth 950 Online percent Mental of Health American Safety minors and~~
~~between Awareness in the ages Department 13 of and Health, 17 shall years select old a reporting four-year~~
~~the public use institution of higher education to host the center based upon, at a social minimum,~~
~~media institutional platform; capacity, interest, and existing expertise.~~

~~The (2) host childhood institution and shall adolescence provide represent the critical administrative~~
~~stages support in necessary brain to development facilitate that the can center's make functioning,~~
~~young including people oversight more by vulnerable the to institution's harms existing from research~~
~~social review media; procedures.~~

~~(3) c. usage The of center's social research, media analysis, can become harmful depending on the amount of~~
~~time children spend on platforms, the type of content they consume or to which they are otherwise~~
~~exposed, and the outreach degree to which it disrupts activities that shall are include, essential but for not~~
~~health, be such limited as to: sleep and physical activity;~~

~~(4) (1) recent studying research the shows impacts that of adolescents who spend more than three hours per~~
~~day on social media face consumption double on the risk residents of experiencing the poor State mental and~~
~~health mitigating outcomes, any such negative as impacts symptoms of depressions such and consumption; anxiety;~~

~~(5) (2) social making media policy may recommendations also to perpetuate the body Legislature,~~
~~dissatisfaction, Governor, disordered and eating key behaviors, stakeholders social to comparison, address the~~
~~mental, physical, and low behavioral self-esteem, health especially challenges among posed adolescent by~~
~~girls; social media use, particularly for children and adolescents;~~

~~and _____ (3) (6) establishing extreme, online inappropriate, courses and harmful training~~
~~content modules continues concerning to safe be social easily media and use, widely which accessible shall to be~~
~~children made and available adolescents, at and no in charge certain and use, childhood deaths have been linked~~
~~to contents schools related in to the suicide State; and self-harm and risk-taking challenges on social media~~
~~platforms.~~

~~and b. _____ Further (4) research conducting is research, critical and for making gaining recommendations,~~
~~a on deeper such understanding topics of as may be required by law related to the effects impact of addictive~~
~~social media behaviors on children, children informing and evidence-based minors approaches and for~~
~~mitigating the harmful extent effects to of which social warning media, labels and establishing other~~
~~New disclaimers Jersey reduce as addictive a leader in social media policy, behaviors.~~

~~c. d. For State these departments reasons, and there agencies is including, abut need not to limited bring to,~~
~~together the health Department experts, of public Health, interest the technology Department researchers, of~~
~~parents, Human and Services, the private Department sector of to Education, share the data Office of the~~
~~Secretary of Higher Education, and expertise the Department of Children and develop Families~~
~~recommendations may for submit promoting relevant safer research online requests experiences, and questions to~~
~~the center.~~

~~e. 2. The a. center There may is administer established a Social grant Media program Research Center,~~
~~hereinafter referred to as advance the its center, purpose. at a four-year public institution of higher~~
~~education.~~

~~The Any purpose State-appropriated of research the funds center made shall available be under to the carry grant~~

~~outreach of activities~~ outreach of activities ~~scientific to merit help as~~ scientific to merit help as ~~Now determined~~ Now determined ~~Jersey by navigate an the open,~~ Jersey by navigate an the open, ~~usage competitive of peer social review media, process particularly that among assures children objectivity,~~ usage competitive of peer social review media, process particularly that among assures children objectivity, ~~consistency, and adolescents, high quality.~~ consistency, and adolescents, high quality.

~~b. f. The Secretary~~ b. f. The Secretary ~~center of may Higher solicit Education and shall accept select any a grants, four-~~ center of may Higher solicit Education and shall accept select any a grants, four- ~~year gifts, donations, or other additional funds from public institution or of private higher sources,~~ year gifts, donations, or other additional funds from public institution or of private higher sources, ~~education which to may host be the available center, for research related to social media.~~ education which to may host be the available center, for research related to social media.

~~c. The 2. center~~ c. The 2. center ~~Notwithstanding shall any conduct other research law with or a regulation mission to~~ Notwithstanding shall any conduct other research law with or a regulation mission to ~~create the contrary, State departments and support agencies including, but not limited to, the~~ create the contrary, State departments and support agencies including, but not limited to, the ~~use Department of impartial Health, and the actionable Department science of to Education, advance and~~ use Department of impartial Health, and the actionable Department science of to Education, advance and ~~government, the public, Department private, of Children and nongovernmental Families sector shall, efforts to~~ government, the public, Department private, of Children and nongovernmental Families sector shall, efforts to ~~understand the social extent media practicable use, and mitigate feasible, provide to the negative Social~~ understand the social extent media practicable use, and mitigate feasible, provide to the negative Social ~~impacts Media of Research social Center, media, upon and request, promote the healthy data and necessary~~ impacts Media of Research social Center, media, upon and request, promote the healthy data and necessary ~~responsible for social the media center use, to conduct its research.~~ responsible for social the media center use, to conduct its research.

~~All d. data The transmitted center's to research, and analysis, received and by outreach the activities center~~ All d. data The transmitted center's to research, and analysis, received and by outreach the activities center ~~shall include, be but provided not in be a limited manner to, that protects individuals' privacy and complies~~ shall include, be but provided not in be a limited manner to, that protects individuals' privacy and complies ~~with applicable federal and State law.~~ with applicable federal and State law.

~~To (1) the establishing extent online the courses center and otherwise training receives modules or~~ To (1) the establishing extent online the courses center and otherwise training receives modules or ~~concerning transmits safe data, social the media center use, shall which review courses and modules approve~~ concerning transmits safe data, social the media center use, shall which review courses and modules approve ~~shall all be relevant available data to use public agreements schools or business associate agreements in~~ shall all be relevant available data to use public agreements schools or business associate agreements in ~~compliance with all applicable privacy and security standards, including but not limited to, the~~ compliance with all applicable privacy and security standards, including but not limited to, the ~~State; "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996," Pub. L. 104-191 and 45 C.F.R.~~ State; "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996," Pub. L. 104-191 and 45 C.F.R.

~~160.101 (2) to researching 164.534, age-appropriate or screen any times other and similar content, law.~~ 160.101 (2) to researching 164.534, age-appropriate or screen any times other and similar content, law.

~~(3) making 3. recommendations One to year following the Legislature, establishment of the Social~~ (3) making 3. recommendations One to year following the Legislature, establishment of the Social ~~Media Research Center, and each year thereafter, the Social Media Research Center shall submit a report~~ Media Research Center, and each year thereafter, the Social Media Research Center shall submit a report ~~to the Governor, and key to stakeholder the that Legislature address pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991,~~ to the Governor, and key to stakeholder the that Legislature address pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, ~~c. 164 (C.52:14-19.1), regarding the mental, work physical, of the center. The report shall include, but~~ c. 164 (C.52:14-19.1), regarding the mental, work physical, of the center. The report shall include, but ~~not be limited to, information on the center's current research projects, the amount and~~ not be limited to, information on the center's current research projects, the amount and ~~behavioral sources health of challenges funding posed utilized, by research requests and questions received~~ behavioral sources health of challenges funding posed utilized, by research requests and questions received ~~from State departments and agencies, and the direction of the center's future research. If the center~~ from State departments and agencies, and the direction of the center's future research. If the center ~~administers a grant program for social media use, research, the report shall also include information on~~ administers a grant program for social media use, research, the report shall also include information on ~~the grants made, pending grants, and accomplishments of the program.~~ the grants made, pending grants, and accomplishments of the program.

~~The (4) report studying shall the also impacts be of made social publicly media available. consumption on the~~ The (4) report studying shall the also impacts be of made social publicly media available. consumption on the ~~residents of the State;~~ residents of the State;

~~and (5) 4. conducting The public Social awareness Media campaigns Research Center and any recipients~~ and (5) 4. conducting The public Social awareness Media campaigns Research Center and any recipients ~~of grants awarded by the center shall provide copies of their research publications that were supported~~ of grants awarded by the center shall provide copies of their research publications that were supported ~~by those grants to promote the Governor, to the responsible Legislature use pursuant to section 2 of~~ by those grants to promote the Governor, to the responsible Legislature use pursuant to section 2 of ~~social P.L. 1991, media c. 164 (C.52:14-19.1), and media to literacy, any State departments or agencies that~~ social P.L. 1991, media c. 164 (C.52:14-19.1), and media to literacy, any State departments or agencies that ~~supplied data used in connection with that research, as soon as practicable following publication.~~ supplied data used in connection with that research, as soon as practicable following publication.

~~e. 5. As This act supplement to its own research, the center may administer a grant program for~~ e. 5. As This act supplement to its own research, the center may administer a grant program for ~~research on social media. Research funds under the grant program shall be take awarded effect~~ research on social media. Research funds under the grant program shall be take awarded effect ~~on immediately. the basis of scientific merit as determined by an open, competitive peer review process~~ on immediately. the basis of scientific merit as determined by an open, competitive peer review process ~~that assures objectivity, consistency, and high quality. The peer review process shall be modeled on~~ that assures objectivity, consistency, and high quality. The peer review process shall be modeled on ~~the process used by the National Institutes of Health in its grant making process. All qualified~~ the process used by the National Institutes of Health in its grant making process. All qualified ~~investigators, regardless of institutional affiliation, shall have equal access and opportunity to~~ investigators, regardless of institutional affiliation, shall have equal access and opportunity to ~~compete for research funds under the grant program.~~ compete for research funds under the grant program.

~~3. State departments and agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Health, the~~ 3. State departments and agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Health, the ~~Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Families, shall provide to the center, upon~~ Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Families, shall provide to the center, upon ~~request, the data necessary for the center to conduct its research.~~ request, the data necessary for the center to conduct its research.

~~4. One year following the establishment of the Social Media Research Center, and every five years~~ 4. One year following the establishment of the Social Media Research Center, and every five years ~~thereafter, the four-year public institution of higher education hosting the center shall submit a~~ thereafter, the four-year public institution of higher education hosting the center shall submit a ~~report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c. 164 (C.52:14-19.1),~~ report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c. 164 (C.52:14-19.1), ~~regarding the work of the center. The report shall include, but not be limited to, information on the~~ regarding the work of the center. The report shall include, but not be limited to, information on the ~~center's current research projects, the amount and sources of funding utilized, and the future direction~~ center's current research projects, the amount and sources of funding utilized, and the future direction ~~of the center's research. If the center administers a grant program for social media research, the~~ of the center's research. If the center administers a grant program for social media research, the ~~report shall also include information on the grants made, pending grants, and accomplishments of the~~ report shall also include information on the grants made, pending grants, and accomplishments of the ~~program.~~ program.

~~5. The center and any recipients of grants awarded by the center shall provide copies of their~~ 5. The center and any recipients of grants awarded by the center shall provide copies of their ~~research publications to the Governor, to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c. 164~~ research publications to the Governor, to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c. 164 ~~(C.52:14-19.1), and to any State departments or agencies that supplied data used in connection with that~~ (C.52:14-19.1), and to any State departments or agencies that supplied data used in connection with that ~~research, as soon as practicable following publication.~~ research, as soon as practicable following publication.

~~6. a. The Legislature shall annually appropriate such amounts as are necessary to fund the research~~ 6. a. The Legislature shall annually appropriate such amounts as are necessary to fund the research ~~activities of the Social Media Research Center and the functioning of the center. b.~~ activities of the Social Media Research Center and the functioning of the center. b.

~~The center may solicit and accept any grants, gifts, donations, or other additional funds from public or private sources, which may be available for research related to social media.~~

~~7. This act shall take effect immediately.~~

~~STATEMENT This bill establishes a Social Media Research Center at a four-year public institution of higher education for the purpose of carrying out collaborative and interdisciplinary research, analysis, and outreach activities to help New Jersey navigate the usage of social media, particularly among children and adolescents.~~

~~The Secretary of Higher Education is required to choose the four-year public institution of higher education at which the center will be hosted.~~

~~The center will conduct research to understand social media use, mitigate the negative impacts of social media, and promote healthy and responsible social media use.~~

~~The center's research, analysis, and outreach activities will include:~~

~~(1) establishing online courses and training modules concerning safe social media use, which would be made available to public schools in the State;~~

~~(2) researching age-appropriate screen times and content;~~

~~(3) making recommendations to the Legislature, Governor, and key stakeholders to address the mental, physical, and behavioral health challenges posed by social media use;~~

~~(4) studying the impacts of social media consumption on the residents of the State;~~

~~and (5) conducting public awareness campaigns to promote the responsible use of social media and media literacy.~~

~~The bill authorizes the center, in addition to its own research, to administer a grant program for research on social media. Research funds under the grant program will be awarded on the basis of scientific merit under a competitive peer review process, and all qualified investigators will have an equal opportunity to compete for grant funds.~~

~~The bill requires the four-year public institution of higher education hosting the center to submit a report on the work of the center to the Governor and the Legislature one year following the establishment of the center, and every five years thereafter. The report is required to include information on the center's current research projects, funding utilized, and the future direction of its research. If the center administers a grant program, the report would also include information on the grants awarded and the program's accomplishments. In addition, the center and any recipients of grants awarded by the center will provide copies of their research publications to the Governor, the Legislature, and any State departments or agencies that supplied data used in connection with the research.~~

~~Under the bill, the Social Media Research Center would be funded through an annual appropriation by the Legislature, and by any grants, gifts, donations, or other additional funds received by the center from public or private sources for research related to social media.~~